convertible on current account; cautious and gradual approach towards liberalisation of capital account; an active participation in the deliberations on new International Financial Architecture and in G-20.

Expulsion of diplomats by India and Pakistan

1562. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently expelled Pakistani diplomats and in retaliations the Pakistan has also expelled Indian diplomats there;

(b) if so, whether the expulsion of diplomats by both the countries have strained further relations; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction on such expulsions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) On 18.2.2000, Pakistan was asked to withdraw Mr. Mohammad Khalil, Mr. Rana Mohammad Saghir and Mr. Muhammad Amin, staff members at Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi by 25.2.2000 as they were found to be indulging in activities incompatible with their official status. These officials left India within the stipulated time period. In retaliation and on false and baseless allegations, Pakistan sought the withdrawal of S/Shri Gopal Chander Roy, Asit Baran Das and R.Sankaranarayanan, staff mbembers at Indian High Commission in Islamabad, by 27.2.2000. These officials have returned to India.

The continuing harassment and intimidation of the personnel of our Mission in Islamabad, of which these retaliatory expulsions were a part, are contrary to all accepted norms of conduct towards accredited Mission personnel. Such conduct is naturally not conducive to improving bilateral relations between the two countries.

Lifting of trade control regime by United States

1563. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States propose to lift-certain trade control regimes/ technological blockades, including dual sue technology that were imposed on India since the Pokharan nuclear test;